

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents having an adjustable deflagration point and a composition comprising from 10 to 50 wt. % dipicrylaminoethyl nitrate, from 25 to 75 wt. % of an oxidizing agent, and 10 to 60 wt. % of a nitrogen-containing compound other than dipicrylaminoethyl nitrate and the oxidizing agent, wherein the thermal pre-ignition agent has a deflagration point controlled based on the composition thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 2, characterized in that the oxidizing agent is selected from one or more of the nitrates of the alkali and/or alkaline earth metals and/or of ammonium, of the perchlorates of the alkali and/or alkaline earth metals and/or of ammonium, and of the peroxides of the alkaline earth metals and/or of zinc.

4. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 2, characterized in that the nitrogen-containing compound is selected from one or more of nitroguanidine, nitroaminoguanidine, nitrotriazolone, derivatives of tetrazole and/or salts thereof, nitraminotetrazole and/or its salts, aminoguanidine nitrate, diaminoguanidine nitrate, triaminoguanidine nitrate, guanidine nitrate, dicyandiamidine nitrate, and diaminoguanidine azotetrazolate.

5. (Currently Amended) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim

2, wherein the composition further comprises ~~from~~ at least 1 to 80 wt. % of a reducing agent.

6. (Currently Amended) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 2, wherein the composition further comprises ~~from~~ at least 1 to 80 wt. % of a binder.

7. (Currently Amended) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 2, wherein the composition further comprises ~~from~~ at least 10 to 80 wt. % of at least one high-energy additive.

8. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 2, wherein the composition further comprises from 0.1 to 20 wt. % of at least one combustion moderator and processing aid.

9. (Withdrawn) A thermal fuse for use in gas generators for motor vehicle safety systems, comprising a thermal pre-ignition agent according to claim 2.

10. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 2, wherein the composition comprises from 10 to 30 wt. % of the dipicrylaminoethyl nitrate.

11. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 2, wherein the composition comprises from 20 to 40 wt. % of the nitrogen-containing compound.

12. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 5, wherein the composition comprises from 1 to 40 wt. % of the reducing agent.

13. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to

claim 5, wherein the composition comprises from 1 to 15 wt. % of the reducing agent.

14. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 5, wherein the reducing agent is selected from one or more of aluminum, titanium, titanium hydride, boron, boron hydride, zirconium, zirconium hydride, silicon, graphite, activated carbon, and carbon black.

15. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 6, wherein the composition comprises from 1 to 40 wt. % of the binder.

16. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 6, wherein the composition comprises from 1 to 20 wt. % of the binder.

17. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 6, wherein the binder is selected from one or more of cellulose and derivatives thereof, polyvinylbutyrals, polynitropolyphenylene, polynitrophenyl ether, Plexigum, polyvinyl acetate and copolymers.

18. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 7, wherein the composition comprises from 10 to 50 wt. % of the at least one high-energy additive.

19. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 7, wherein the composition comprises from 10 to 30 wt. % of the at least one high-energy additive.

20. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 7, wherein the at least one high-energy additive is selected from one or more of hexogen, octogen and nitrocellulose.

21. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to

claim 8, wherein the composition comprises from 0.1 to 10 wt. % of the at least one combustion moderator and processing aid.

22. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 8, wherein the at least one combustion moderator and processing aid is selected from one or more of ferrocene and derivatives thereof, acetylacetates, salicylates, silicates, silica gels and boron nitride.

23. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 2, wherein the composition has a deflagration point in a range of 178°C to 208°C.

24. (Previously Presented) Thermal pre-ignition agents according to claim 23, wherein the composition has a deflagration point below 200°C.

25-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A thermal pre-ignition agent composition consisting essentially of from 10 to 50 wt. % dipicrylaminoethyl nitrate, from 25 to 75 wt. % of an oxidizing agent, and 10 to 60 wt. % of a nitrogen-containing compound other than dipicrylaminoethyl nitrate and the oxidizing agent, wherein the thermal pre-ignition agent composition has a deflagration point in a range of 178°C to 208°C.

28. (Previously Presented) A thermal pre-ignition agent composition consisting essentially of from 10 to 50 wt. % dipicrylaminoethyl nitrate, from 25 to 75 wt. % of an oxidizing agent, and 10 to 60 wt. % of a nitrogen-containing compound other than dipicrylaminoethyl nitrate and the oxidizing agent, and, optionally at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a reducing agent, a binder, a high-energy additive, and a combustion

moderator and processing aid, wherein the thermal pre-ignition agent composition has a deflagration point in a range of 178°C to 208°C.

29. (Previously Presented) The thermal pre-ignition agent composition according to claim 28, wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of aluminium, titanium, titanium hydride, boron, boron hydride, zirconium, zirconium hydride, silicon, graphite, activated carbon and carbon black, the binder is selected from the group consisting of cellulose and derivatives thereof, polyvinylbutyrals, polynitropolyphenylene, polynitrophenyl ether, Plexigum, polyvinyl acetate and copolymers thereof, the high-energy additive is selected from the group consisting of hexogen, octogen and nitrocellulose, and the combustion moderator and processing aid is selected from the group consisting of ferrocene and derivatives, acetonilacetates, salicylates, silicates, silica gels and boron nitride.

30. (New) The thermal pre-ignition agent composition according to claim 28, wherein the composition has a deflagration point below 200°C.

31. (New) A thermal fuse for use in gas generators for motor vehicle safety systems, comprising the thermal pre-ignition agent composition according to claim 30.

32. (New) A thermal fuse for use in gas generators for motor vehicle safety systems, comprising the thermal pre-ignition agent composition according to claim 28.